Star Wheel

Kit contains:

- Two-page star wheel template

You will need:

- Scissors
- Tape or stapler

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INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Cut out both parts of the star wheel.

(2) Fold the white rectangle at the bottom of the outer sleeve behind the blue front. Staple or tape the rectangle at the sides as marked by the short white lines.

(3) Slip the circular sky map into the pocket so it shows through the oval.

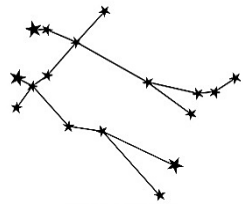
(4) To use your star wheel, pick the date and time you want to observe. Then turn the inner sky map so the correct date matches the correct time along the edge.

The star wheel in the picture is set to observe the sky on April 20, at 8 pm CDT facing east.

(5) Once outside, hold the star wheel out in front of you so that the yellow label for the direction you're facing is on the bottom with the lettering right-side up. Stars in the center of the oval will appear directly overhead. Since Morton Grove is near a big city, you might be able to see as many stars as in areas without **light pollution**.

https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-resources/make-a-star-wheel/

MORE INFORMATION



Constellations are groups of stars in the sky that form a pattern.

- There are 88 constellations.
- People have observed constellations for thousands of years.
- Various cultures around the world created different constellations. The ones we are using today are from the ancient Greece.

The earth moves through space as it orbits around the sun, so we see different constellations at different times in the year. The earth also rotates throughout the night, so we see different parts of space at different times. That's why your star wheel has dates and times on it.

Ancient people used the constellations to tell stories. One of the most visible constellations in the winter is Orion, who was a hero with super strength in ancient Greek stories. Three bright stars make up his belt. Another example of a constellation story is Draco, the dragon. The ancient Greek people told a story that a goddess, Athena, defeated the dragon and threw him into the sky, and he remains in the stars. Cultures in other area of the world told different stories about these same constellations.

Ask at the library for books to learn more about constellations!